

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Pecos District
Roswell Field Office
2909 W. Second
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

In reply refer to:
NM510(4160)
Allot: 64087

October 6, 2005

Certified Mail No 7001 1940 0006 3700 6561

Lois W. Stephens
P. O. Box 91
Hagerman, NM 88232

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION EA#NM510-2005-0046

Dear Ms. Stephens:

The Roswell Field Office has completed an Environmental Assessment EA#NM-510-2005-0046 for the renewal of a grazing permit/lease for the Allotment #64087. The environmental assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) were sent to the permittee/lessee and all recognized interested public for a thirty (30) day comment period. No comments were received.

My proposed decision is as follows:

1. Offer a new ten year grazing permit from March 1, 2006 to February 28, 2016. Your current grazing permit expires on February 28, 2006. Upon acceptance and approval of the new permit your existing permit will be renewed.
2. Active permitted use is for one (1) animal unit (AUs), corresponding to 12 animal unit months (AUMs) at 100 percent Public Land.

Rationale

Resource conditions on the allotment are sufficient and sustainable to support the level of use outlined in the grazing permit and/or the grazing lease. This action

benefits the Bureau of Land Management's grazing administration program efforts to coordinate New Mexico Public Land Health Assessments with permit renewals.

Right of Protest and Appeal

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest a proposed decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2, in person or in writing to the Field Office Manager, 2909 West Second, Roswell, NM 88201 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why the proposed decision is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (a), in the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3 (b) upon a timely filing of a protest, after a review of protests received and other information pertinent to the case, the authorized officer shall issue a final decision.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160 .4. The appeal must be filed within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or within 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final. The appeal may be accompanied by a petition for a stay of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4.471 and 4.479, pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for a stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above. The appellant must serve a copy of the appeal by certified mail on the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, P. O. Box 1042, Santa Fe, NM 87504 and person(s) named [43 CFR 4.421(h)] in the Copies sent to: section of this decision.

The appeal shall clearly and concisely state the reasons why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error, and otherwise complies with the provisions of 43 CFR 4.470.

Should you wish to file a petition for a stay, see 43 CFR 4.471 (a) and (b). In accordance with 43 CFR 4.471(c), a petition for a stay must show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer and served in accordance with 43 CFR 4.473. If a petition for stay is not granted, the decision will be put into effect following the 30-day appeal period. Appeals can be filed at the following address:

Field Office Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Field Office
2909 West Second Street
Roswell, NM 88201

Any person named in the decision that receives a copy of a petition for a stay and/or an appeal see 43 CFR 4.472(b) for procedures to follow if you wish to respond.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 505-627-0272.

Sincerely,

/s/ Eddie Bateson

Eddie Bateson
Field Office Manager

Copies sent to (by certified mail):

NM Department of Game and Fish 7001 1940 0006 3700 6462
Attn: Jan Ward
P. O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Forest Guardians 7001 1940 0006 3700 6530
Attn: John Horning
312 Montezuma Suite A
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Audubon Society 7001 1940 0006 3700 6547
Attn: David Henderson
P. O. Box 9314
Santa Fe, NM 87504

NM Cattle Growers' Assn 7001 1940 0006 3700 6509
Attn: Caren Cowan
P. O. Box 7514
Albuquerque, NM 87194

New Mexico State Land Office 7001 1940 0006 3700 6486
Attn: Robyn Tierney
P. O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, NM 87504

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/RATIONALE

EA No. NM-510-2005-0046

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined the proposed action will not have significant impacts on the human environment and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Rationale for Recommendations: The proposed action would not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The proposed action will be in compliance with the Roswell Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (October, 1997).

T. R. Kreager
Assistant Field Manager, Resources

Date: 9/1/2005

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
GRAZING AUTHORIZATION

ALLOTMENT 64087, SECTION 3

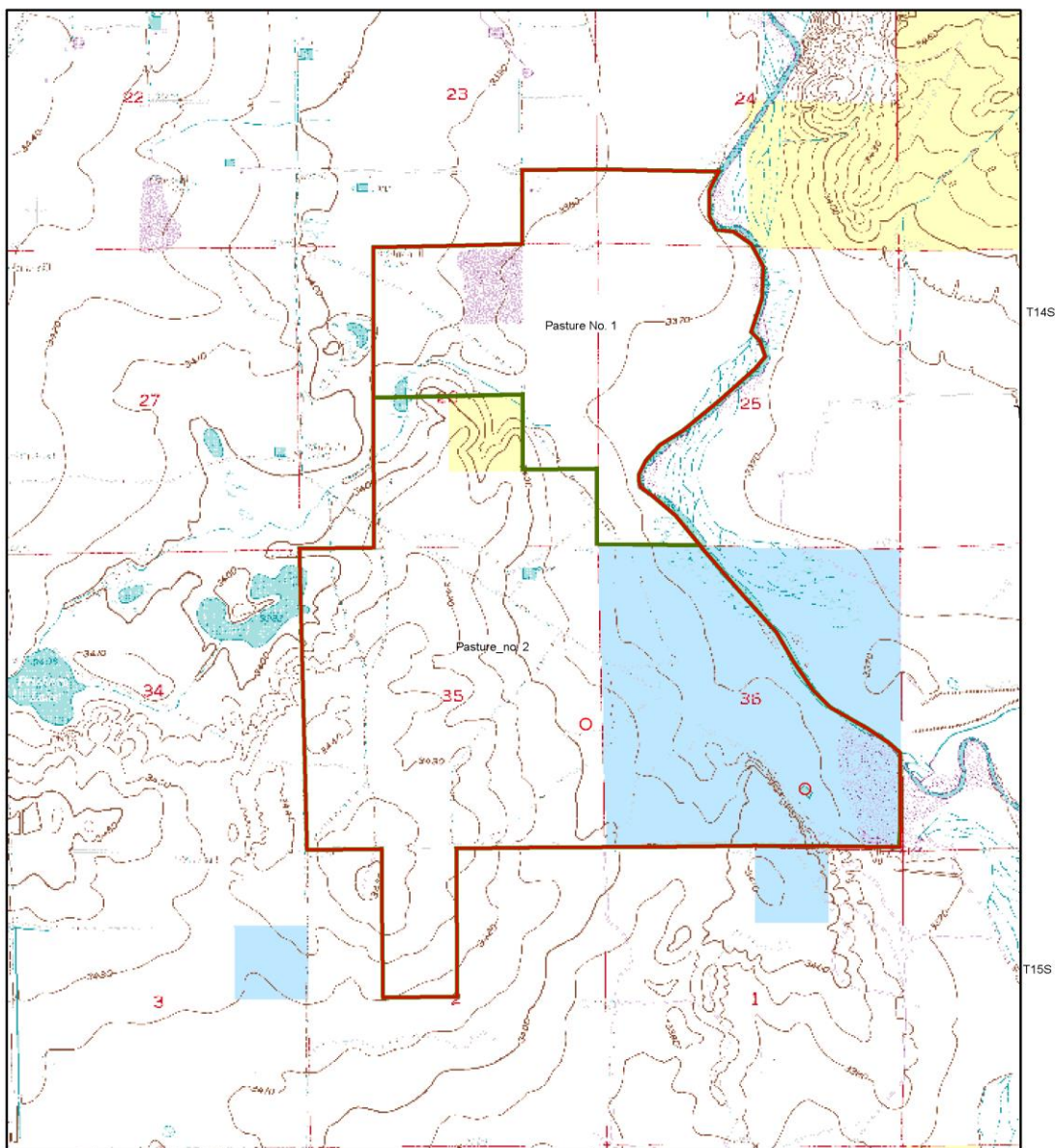
EA-NM-510-2005-0046

April 2005

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Field Office
Roswell, New Mexico



King Place West - 64087



- State Land
- Public Land
- Private Land

R26E

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Base Waters in Red

- Allotment Boundary
- Pasture Boundary
- Water Well

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Produced by the RFO GIS Specialist on May 20, 2005.

I. Introduction

When authorizing livestock grazing on public range, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has historically relied on a land use plan and environmental impact statement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A recent decision by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, however, affirmed that the BLM must conduct a site-specific NEPA analysis before issuing a permit or lease to authorize livestock grazing. This environmental assessment fulfills the NEPA requirement by providing the necessary site-specific analysis of the effects of issuing a new grazing permit on allotment #64087.

The scope of this document is limited to the effects of issuing a 10 year grazing permit, other future actions such as range improvement projects will be addressed in a project specific environmental assessment. There are no current plans for additional management actions on this allotment.

A. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of issuing a new grazing permit would be to authorize livestock grazing on public lands on allotment #64087. The permit would specify the types and levels of use authorized, and the terms and conditions of the authorization pursuant to 43 CFR §§4130.3, 4130.3-1, 4130.3-2 and 4180.1.

B. Conformance with Land Use Planning

The Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (October 1997) has been reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms to the land use plan's Record of Decision. The proposed action is consistent with the RMP/EIS.

C. Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The proposed action is consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1700 et seq.); the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.), as amended; the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), as amended; the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1535 et seq.) as amended; the Federal Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to authorize Lois W. Stephens a grazing permit for the West King Place allotment #64087. The permit would authorize one (1) Animal Unit (AU) yearlong at 100 percent federal range for 12 Animal Unit Months (AUM's). Cattle and horses are the class of livestock proposed for authorization.

B. No Permit authorization alternative:

This alternative would not issue a new grazing permit. There would be no livestock grazing authorized on public land within allotment #64087.

III. Affected Environment

A. General Setting

Allotment #64087 is located in Chaves County, approximately three (3) miles south of Hagerman, New Mexico. The allotment consists of approximately 40 acres of public land, 1510 acres of private land and 460 acres of state land.

This allotment lies within the boundaries of the Roswell Grazing District established subsequent to the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA). Grazing authorization on Public Lands inside the Grazing District boundary is governed by Section 3 of the TGA.

The landscape is relatively flat, grassland with low hills to the west of the Pecos River bottom. The Pecos River runs north-south through the private lands in the allotment. More detailed information of the area is discussed under the affected resources section.

The following resources or values are not present or would not be affected: Prime/Unique Farmland, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Minority/Low Income Populations, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Hazardous/Solid Wastes, Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Native American Religious Concerns. Cultural inventory surveys would continue to be required for public actions involving surface disturbing activities.

B. Affected Resources

1. Soils: In general, the soils in the area are Reakor (ReB) association and Tencee-Upton association. For the Reakor soil association the runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is greater than 60 inches. It is well drained. The slowest soil permeability within a depth of 60 inches is moderately slow. Available water capacity within a depth of 60 inches is high, and shrink swell potential is moderate. Annual flooding is none, and annual ponding is none. The minimum depth to a water table is greater than 6 feet. The maximum calcium carbonate equivalent within a depth of 40 inches is 35 percent. In the soil profile, the maximum salinity is very slight, and there are no sodic horizons. This component is in the LOAMY, ecological site. For additional information, please refer to the Soil Survey of Chaves County New Mexico, Southern Part, published by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). A copy of this publication may be reviewed at the BLM Roswell Field Office or at a local NRCS office.

For the Tencee-Upton soil association the runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is 7 to 20 inches to a petrocalcic. It is well drained. The slowest soil permeability within a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Available water capacity within a depth of 60 inches is very low, and shrink swell potential is low. Annual flooding is none, and annual ponding is none. The minimum depth to a water table is greater than 6 feet. The maximum calcium carbonate equivalent within a depth of 40 inches is 45 percent. In the soil profile, there are no saline horizons, and there are no sodic horizons. This component is in the SHALLOW, ecological site.

Upton soils make up 35 percent of the map unit. This map unit is in the Southern Desertic Basins, Plains, and Mountains Major Land Resource Area. The runoff class is medium. The depth to a restrictive feature is 7 to 24 inches to a petrocalcic. It is well drained. The slowest soil permeability within a depth of 60 inches is moderate. Available water capacity within a depth of 60 inches is very low, and shrink swell potential is low. Annual flooding is none, and annual ponding is none. The minimum depth to a water table is greater than 6 feet. The maximum calcium carbonate equivalent

within a depth of 40 inches is 75 percent. In the soil profile, the maximum salinity is very slight, and there are no sodic horizons. This component is in the SHALLOW, ecological site.

2. Vegetation: This allotment is within the grassland vegetative community as identified in the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). Vegetative communities managed by the Roswell Field Office are identified and explained in the RMP/EIS. Appendix 11 of the draft RMP/EIS describes the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept and identifies the components of each community. The distinguishing feature for the grassland community is that grass species typically comprises 75% or more of the potential plant community. The community also includes shrub, half-shrub, and forb species. The percentages of grasses, forbs, and shrubs actually found at a particular location will vary with recent weather factors, past resource uses and the potential of the site.

The ecological (range) sites on the allotment are Loamy SD-3 and Shallow SD-3. Ecological site descriptions are available for review at the Roswell BLM office or any Natural Resources Conservation Service office or may be accessed at www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov.

An initial rangeland inventory for vegetation production and ecological range site condition was done in 1991; this site was last monitored in 2005. Data indicates that the vegetative conditions on allotment #64087 achieve, or are moving towards, the multiple resource objectives established in the Roswell RMP. Copies of the inventory data are available at the Roswell Field Office.

3. Wildlife: Game species occurring within the area include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, mourning dove, and scaled quail. Raptors that utilize the area on a more seasonal basis include the Swainson's, red-tailed, and ferruginous hawks, American kestrel, and great-horned owl. Numerous passerine birds utilize the grassland areas due to the variety of grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The most common include the western meadowlark, mockingbird, horned lark, killdeer, loggerhead shrike, and vesper sparrow.

The warm prairie environment supports a large number of reptile species compared to higher elevations. The more common reptiles include the short-horned lizard, lesser earless lizard, eastern fence lizard, coachwhip, bullsnake, prairie rattlesnake, and western rattlesnake.

A general description of wildlife occupying or potentially utilizing the proposed action area is located in the Affected Environment Section (p. 3-62 to 3-71) of the Draft Roswell RMP/EIS (9/1994).

4. Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no known resident populations of threatened or endangered species on this allotment. A list of federal threatened, endangered, and candidate species reviewed for this EA can be found in Appendix 11 of the Roswell RMP (AP11-2). Of the listed species, avian species such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon may be observed in the general geographic area during migration or the winter months. There are no known records of these species having occurred on the allotment, and no designated critical habitat areas are within the allotment.

5. Livestock Management: The allotment is operated as a cow/calf ranch. The West King Place allotment consists of two (2) pastures which aid in livestock movement and restraint. One water well provides livestock water for the allotment. Livestock movement is dependant upon rainfall patterns. Typically, the allotment is stocked conservatively during dry periods for vegetation conservation.

6. Visual Resources: The allotment is located in a Class IV Visual Management Area. The Class IV rating means that contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature in the landscape in terms of scale. However, the changes should repeat the basic elements of the landscape

7. Water Quality: No perennial surface water is found on the Public Land on this allotment.

8. Air Quality: Air quality in the region is generally good. The allotment is in a Class II area for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of air quality as defined in the public Clean Air Act. Class II areas allow a moderate amount of air quality degradation.

9. Recreation: Since this allotment has no facility based recreational activities, only dispersed recreational opportunities occur on these lands. Recreational activities that may occur include hunting, caving, sightseeing, Off Highway Vehicle Use, primitive camping, horseback riding and hiking.

Off Highway Vehicle designation for public lands within this allotment are classified as "Limited" to existing roads and trails.

Due to the fact that public land boundaries are not marked adequately or identified by signs and/or fences, the general public may be reluctant to use these public lands in fear of being in trespass on private land.

10. Cave/Karst: This allotment is located within a designated area of low karst and cave potential. A complete significant cave or karst inventory has not been completed for the public lands located in this grazing allotment, no significant cave or karst features are known to exist within this allotment.

11. Floodplains: Within this allotment, one floodplain exists that is recorded on Federal Emergency Management Agency maps. The identified floodplain is the Felix River. Any future permanent structures or improvements will be analyzed on a site specific basis prior to approval within the floodplain.

12. Noxious and Invasive species: A noxious weed is defined as a plant that causes disease or has other adverse effects on the human environment and is, therefore, detrimental to the public health and to the agriculture and commerce of the United States. Generally, noxious weeds are aggressive, difficult to manage, parasitic, are carriers or hosts of harmful insects or disease, and are either native, new to, or not common in, the United States. In most cases, however, noxious weeds are non-native species.

The list currently includes the following weeds: 1) African rue, 2) black henbane, 3) bull thistle, 4) camelthorn, 5) Canada thistle, 6) dalmatian toadflax, 7) goldenrod, 8) leafy spurge, 9) Malta starthistle, 10) musk thistle, 11) poison hemlock, 12) purple starthistle, 13) Russian knapweed, 14) Scotch thistle, 15) spotted knapweed, 16) teasel, 17) yellow starthistle, 18) yellow toadflax, 19) Russian olive, 20) Tamarix species, 21) Siberian elm.

Of the noxious weeds listed, the ones with known populations in the Roswell Field Office are African rue, non-native *Cirsium* spp. such as bull thistle and Canada thistle, leafy spurge, goldenrod, Malta starthistle, Russian knapweed, musk thistle, poison hemlock, teasel, Siberian elm, Tamarix species, Russian olive and Scotch thistle. Also "problem weeds" of local concern are cocklebur, buffalobur and spiny cocklebur. "Problem weeds" are those weeds which may be native to the area but whose populations are out of balance with other local flora.

Infestations of noxious weeds can have a disastrous impact on biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Noxious weeds affect native plant species by out-competing native vegetation for light, water and soil nutrients. Noxious weeds cause estimated losses to producers \$2 to \$3 billion annually. These losses are attributed to: (1) Decreased quality of agricultural products due to high levels of competition from noxious weeds; (2) decreased quantity of agricultural products due to noxious weed infestations; and (3) costs to control and/or prevent the noxious weeds.

Further, noxious weeds can negatively affect livestock and dairy producers by making forage either unpalatable or toxic to livestock, thus decreasing livestock productivity and potentially increasing producers' feed and animal health care costs. Increased costs to operators are eventually borne by consumers.

Noxious weeds also affect recreational uses, and reduce realty values of both the directly influenced and adjacent properties.

Recent federal legislation has been enacted requiring state and county agencies to implement noxious weed control programs. Monies would be made available for these activities from the federal government, generated from the federal tax base. Therefore, all citizens and taxpayers of the United States are directly affected when noxious weed control prevention is not exercised.

Goldenrod is found on this allotment.

13. Oil and Gas/Rights of Way: At present oil and gas/rights of way activities are limited on this allotment. Due to the increased exploratory activities within this area, there is the potential for new development. There will be no further discussion of this resource.

IV. Environmental Impacts

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action

1. Soils: Proper utilization levels and grazing distribution patterns are expected to retain sufficient vegetative cover on the allotment; this will maintain the stability of the soils. Soil compaction and excessive vegetative use will occur at small, localized areas such as bedding areas, watering locations, and along trails. Positive affects from the proposed action may include acceleration of nutrient cycling, and chipping of the soil crust by hoof action may stimulate seedling growth and water infiltration.

2. Vegetation: Vegetation will continue to be grazed and trampled by domestic livestock as well as other herbivores. The area has been grazed by livestock since the early part of the 1900's, if not longer. The area evolved with large ungulate animal species and native vegetation is accustomed to herbivory. Ecological condition and trend is expected to remain stable and/or improve over the long term with the proposed authorized number of livestock and existing pasture management. Rangeland monitoring data indicates that there is an adequate amount of forage for the multiple resource use objectives.

3. Wildlife: Domestic livestock will continue to utilize vegetative resources needed by a variety of wildlife species for life history functions within this allotment. The magnitude of livestock grazing impacts on wildlife is dependent upon the species of wildlife being considered, and its habitat needs.

In general, livestock stocking rate adjustments have been made in the past to minimize the direct competition for those vegetative resources needed by a variety of wildlife species. Cover habitat for wildlife will remain the same as the existing situation. Maintenance and operation of existing waterings will continue to provide dependable water sources for wildlife, as well as livestock.

4. T&E species: Livestock grazing resulting from issuing a grazing lease, may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the bald eagle. It is expected that habitat and range condition would be maintained or improved by authorizing grazing conducive with multiple resource vegetative production goals. Habitat for wintering bald eagles would not be negatively impacted by livestock grazing. There would be no impact to the peregrine falcon since important riparian nesting sites are not found on this allotment.

5. Livestock Management: No adverse impacts are anticipated under the proposed action.

6. Visual Resources: The continued grazing of livestock would not affect the form or color of the landscape. The primary appearance of the vegetation within the allotment will remain the same.

7. Water Quality: Direct impacts to surface water quality would be minor, short-term impacts during stormflow. Indirect impacts to water-quality related resources, such as fisheries, would not occur. The proposed action would not have a significant effect on ground water. Livestock would be dispersed over the allotment, and the soil would filter potential contaminants.

8. Air Quality: Dust levels under the proposed action would be slightly higher than under the no grazing alternative due to allotment management activities. The levels would be within the limits allowed in a Class II area for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of air quality.

9. Recreation: Grazing should have little or no impact on the dispersed recreational opportunities within this allotment. The evidence or presence of livestock can negatively affect visitors who desire solitude, unspoiled landscape views, or to hike without seeing signs of livestock. However, grazing can benefit some forms of recreation, such as hunting, by creating new water sources for game animals.

10. Caves/Karst: No known significant cave or karst features are known to exist on this allotment. There is a low potential that caves do exist in the area.

11. Floodplains: No impacts to the floodplains are known, by keeping structures out of floodplains, impacts should not occur.

12. Non-native and Invasive species: Grazing should have little or no impact on the goldenrod population found within this allotment. Livestock will generally avoid grazing this plant as it is generally low in palatability. An adequate supply of good feed during harsh times when livestock are more prone to consume goldenrod may reduce its consumption. Most precaution should be taken in winter when snowfall covers the better forage plants and goldenrod is the only plant available. The spread of the plant is generally done by creeping roots and some seed dispersal.

B. Impacts of the No Livestock Grazing Alternative.

1. Soils: Soil compaction would be reduced on the allotment around old trails and bedding grounds, there would be a small reduction in soil loss on the allotment.

2. Vegetation: It is expected that the number of plant species found within the allotment will remain the same however there would be small changes in the relative percentages of these species. Vegetation will continue to be utilized by wildlife. There would be an increase in the amount of standing vegetation.
3. Wildlife: Conflicts between wildlife and livestock for habitat and dietary needs would not exist under this alternative.
4. T&E Species: There would be no impacts to threatened or endangered species or habitat.
5. Livestock management: The forage from public land would be unavailable for use by the permittee. This would not have a significant adverse economic impact to the livestock operation. If the No Grazing alternative is selected, the owner of the livestock would be responsible for ensuring that livestock do not enter Public Land [43 CFR 4140.1(b)(1)]. The forty (40) acre tract of public land would require approximately one mile of new fence to exclude grazing on the public land.
6. Visual Resources: There would be no change in the visual resources.
7. Water Quality: There could be a slight improvement in water quality due to the minor reductions in sediment loading during storm flow.
8. Air Quality: There would be a slightly less dust under this under this alternative versus the proposed alternative, but this would be negligible when considering all sources of dust.
9. Recreation: Impacts would be very minor under the alternative. No positive impacts from livestock watering locations would occur.
10. Caves/Karst: Impacts would be the same as the proposed action if no significant caves are found.
11. Floodplains: Impacts would be the same as the proposed action.
12. Non-native and Invasive species: There would be no change in the existing non-native/invasive species populations. However, if native grasses and vegetation are removed by an unforeseen soil disturbance, new infestations may occur.

V. Public Land Health

Public Land (Rangeland) Health assessments were completed on the allotment during 2004. Based on the assessments and monitoring data a Determination was made that public land within this livestock grazing allotment is in conformance with the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. A copy of this assessment can be accessed at www.nm.blm.gov/rfo/index.htm.

VI. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts of the grazing and no grazing alternatives were considered in Chapter 4 of Rangeland Reform '94 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and in Chapter 4 of the Roswell Resource Area Proposed RMP/EIS. The No Livestock Grazing alternative was not

selected in either document. On the allotment specific level, there will be no cumulatively significant impacts from the proposed action or from the no grazing alternative.

VII. Residual Impacts

The area has been grazed by livestock since the early part of the 1900's, if not longer. Vegetative monitoring studies have shown that grazing, at the current permitted numbers of animals, is sustainable. If the mitigation measures are enacted, then there would be no residual impacts to the proposed action.

VIII. Socio-Economic Impacts

A description of the economic, social and cultural conditions by geographic region within New Mexico can be found in 2000 New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Final EIS. The impacts of authorizing grazing for this allotment under the Proposed Alternative on the economic, social and cultural conditions of southeast New Mexico would be positive. On a smaller scale, the impacts of authorizing grazing for this allotment under the Proposed Action on the economic, social and cultural conditions of Chaves County would also be positive.

IX. Mitigating Measures

Vegetation monitoring will continue to be conducted and the permitted numbers of livestock will be adjusted if necessary. If new information surfaces that livestock grazing is negatively impacting other resources, action will be taken at that time to mitigate those impacts.

X. BLM TEAM MEMBERS

Dan Baggao, John Spain, Irene Gonzales-Salas, Jerry Dutchover, Ernest Jaquez, Pat Flannery, Tim Kreager and Howard Parman.

XI. PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Chaves County Public Land Use Advisory Committee
Lois Stephens - Permittee
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
- Forestry and Resource Conservation Division
New Mexico Environment Department - Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico State Land Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Fishery Resources Office

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

EA Number: NM-060-2005-0046 Serial No.: Preparer: John Spain			Action Type: Grazing Permit Renewal Project Name: 64087 King Place West		
Resource / Activity	Not Present	Not Affected	**May Be Affected	Reviewer	Date
Air Quality*			√	/s/Michael McGee Hydrologist	8/16/05
Floodplains*			√		
Soils/Watershed			√		
Water Quality- Drinking/Ground*			√	/s/ Michael McGee Hydrologist/Geologist***	8/16/05
Vegetation			√	/s/ Joseph M. Navarro Rangeland Management Spec	6/21/05
Livestock Grazing			√		
Invasive, Nonnative Species*			√	/s/ hcjmilller Range Mgmt Spec/Nox. Weed Spec	8/30/2005
Wastes, Hazardous or Solids*				Hazardous Waste Spec.	
Prime/Unique Farmlands*	X			Irene M. Gonzales Realty Specialist	7/18/2005
Lands/Realty/ROW		X			
Fluid Minerals		X		Armando A. Lopez Pet Eng/Geologist/Sur. Prot. Spec.	07/06/05
Mining Claims		√		/s/ Jerry Dutchover Geologist	06/28/05
Mineral Materials		√			
Threatened or Endangered Species*	X			/s/ Ernest Jaquez Wildlife Biologist	08/23/05
Wetlands/Riparian Zones*	X				
Wildlife Habitat			X		
Native American Religious Concerns*		X		Pat Flanary Archaeologist	6/24/05
Cultural Resources*		X			
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*	X			/s/ J H Parman Planning & Env. Coordinator	6/14/05
Low Income & Minority Population Concerns		X			
Wild/Scenic Rivers*	x			Bill Murry Outdoor Recreation Planner/NRS	7/20/05
Wilderness*	x				
Cave/Karst Resources			x		
Outdoor Recreation		x			
Visual Resources			x		
Access/Transportation		x		Richard G. Hill Environr. Prot. Spec.	8/3/05

* "Critical Element" - must be addressed in all NEPA documents.

** "Affected Element" - must be addressed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

*** "Hydrologist/Geologist" – Hydrologist will be the primary lead for "Water Quality- Drinking/Ground" with Resource projects such as fire, fuels, and grazing EA's etc... The Petroleum Geologist will be the primary lead for "Water Quality- Drinking/Ground" with Minerals or oil and gas projects such as Application For Permit To Drill and Sundry Notices etc...



Live Vegetative Cover Pace Point Method

(Data Extracted From VMAP System)

Date Printed: 5/31/2005

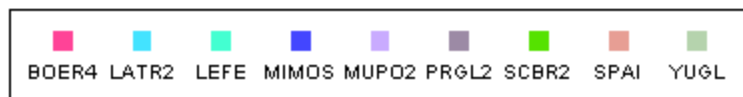
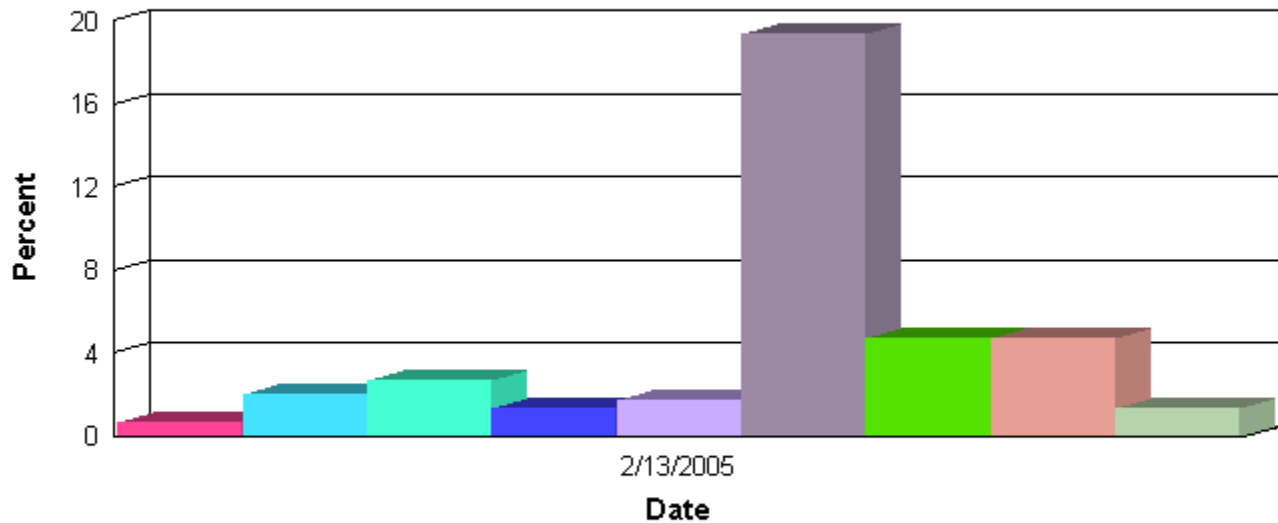
Allot No 64087	Allotment KING PLACE WEST	Ecosite ID 042CY007NM	Ecosite Name LOAMY SD-3	Site Name 64087-IDSU-A170
Location CHAVES	T. 0140S R. 0260E County, NM	Sec. 26	Qtr Qtr NWSE	UTM-N 3659527.679 UTM-E 564642.344.
Soil Sur No NM666	Soil Map Unit ReB	Soil Tax Name REAKOR	Soil Association REAKOR	

VEGID	DATE	PLANT TYPE	GENUS	PLANT CODE	% COVER	COV HITS	TOT PLOTS
170	2/14/2005	Forb	LESQUERELLA	LEFE	2.67	8	300
		Grass	BOUTELOUA	BOER4	0.67	2	
			MUHLENBERGIA	MUPO2	1.67	5	
			SCLEROPOGON	SCBR2	4.67	14	
			SPOROBOLUS	SPAI	4.67	14	
		Shrub	LARREA	LATR2	2.00	6	
			MIMOSA	MIMOS	1.33	4	
			PROSOPIS	PRGL2	19.33	58	
			YUCCA	YUGL	1.33	4	

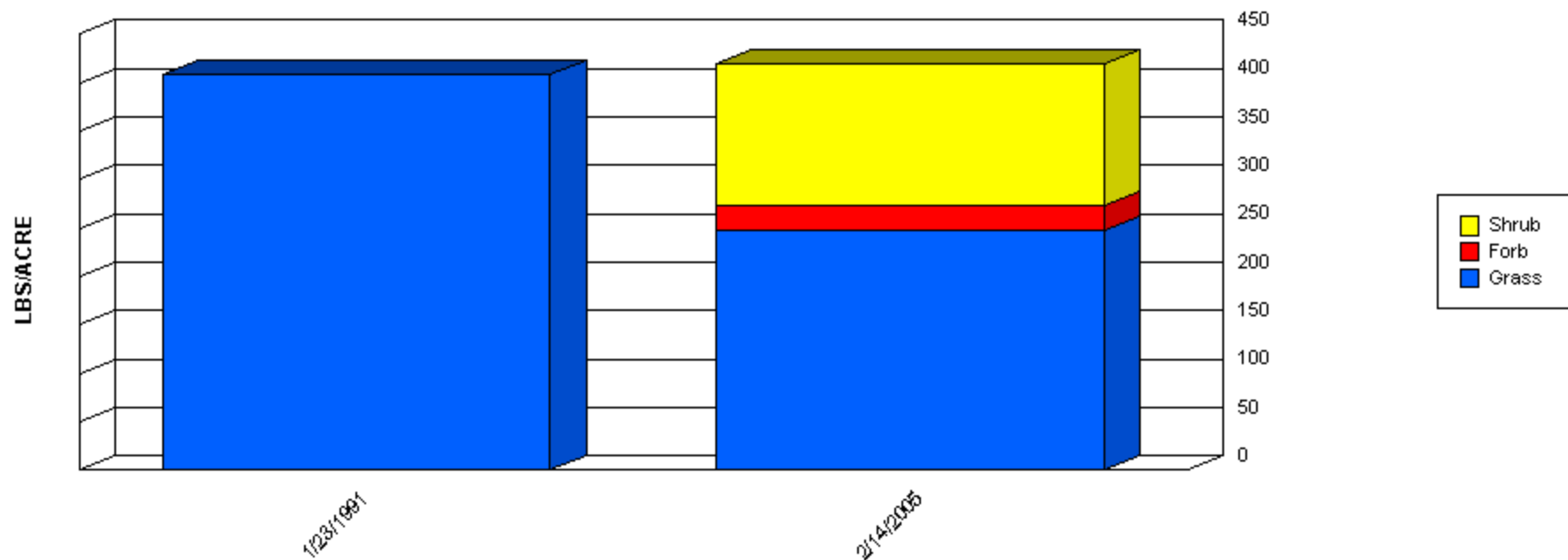
% Total Live Vegetative Cover

38.33

Live Vegetative Cover By Species



Production Lbs/Acre



	1/23/1991	2/14/2005
Forb	0.00	25.02
Grass	408.00	247.36
Shrub	0.00	147.29
Total	408.00	419.67

Report Parameters

SITE NAME LIKE 64087-IDSU-A170
 ON/AFTER 10/01/1990
 ON/BEFORE 09/30/2005